(v) Need to provide Financial Assistance to State Government of Bihar for Providing Relief to the People Affected by heavy Rains in Jahanabad District

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker , Sir, normal life has been disrupted in Jahanabad Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar because of heavy rains during 9.7.97 to 13.7.97. The houses belonging to Scheduled Castes, backward classes and labourers of the area have been destroyed. Thousand of animals have died therein. The people of this area have taken shelter along with their families in public buildings like schools, community centres and primary health centres, Maximum rain has been recorded this year in the last 15 years.

Therefore, it is demanded that the Central Government should provide adequate compensation to the poor, who have suffered loss of their life and property so that their condition could be improved. The State Government should be provided additional financial assistance for this purpose.

(vi) Need to Give Adequate Representation to SC/ STs and Backward Castes in Judiciary

SHRI D.P. YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, India got independence fifty years ago. Though after independence zamindari system was abolished and efforts are being made for increasing the representation of SC/ ST and Backward Classes in various fields but even today the upper castes are dominating the judiciary. The representation of SCs/STs and other backward castes in the judiciary is negligible. Time and again the attention of Central Government had been drawn towards this fact but the weaker section of the society have not been provided due representation in judiciary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, against the present sanctioned strength of 77 judges in Allahabad High Court, there are only three judges belonging to SCs and one to other backward classes. There is a lot of resentment in these sections of society because the names of advocates belonging to these sections of the society are not recommended by the Selection Committee. A few days ago in newspapers, there was a news item that the Government is going to enact a legislation in this regard.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government that when the issue of appointment of judges of Allahabad High Court is taken into consideration, the advocates belonging to backward and weaker sections of society should also be recommended so that they could get due representation in the judiciary.

(vii) Need to Sanction Adequate funds for All-Round Development of Sunderbans Area in West Bengal

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sir, as you know, Sunderbans in West Bengal is renowned for its flora and fauna, unique mangrove forests and above all being the abode of the legendary Royal Bengal Tigers. It is a pity that its inhabitants who are more than 3.5 millions are living below the poverty line as there is no industry of any kind there. They have to depend on fishing, wood cutting and partly on marginal farming. In fact, this is one of most backward areas in the country. It needs some sort of integrated development which covers more than 90 per cent of the South 24 Parganas. The Central Government has so far not drawn up any plan for its development nor has it allotted any funds for the purpose. The Government of West Bengal has drawn up a four-year plan for Sunderbans and sanctioned a sum of Rs. 7.7 crore for 1997-98 for the improvement of communication system through construction of jetties on river banks and brick paved roads and other ancillery works like soil conservation and make available potable water through lift irrigation. It is high time that the Central Government sanctions some funds for its development in order to reverse the process of debilitation in Sunderbans.

13.00 hrs.

(viii) Need to set up a Low Power T.V. Transmitter at Dudhwakhara in Churu District, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw your attention towards Dudhwakhara town of Churu Parliamentary Constituency. It is an important town. This town has hospital, post office, banks and many governmental offices. It is also linked to district headquarters by rail and roads. Dudhwakhara town is the centre of business activities of 60 or 70 villages situated around it. Agricultural produce of these villages is also sold in Dudhwakhara town. About 60 thousand people in and around this town are directly